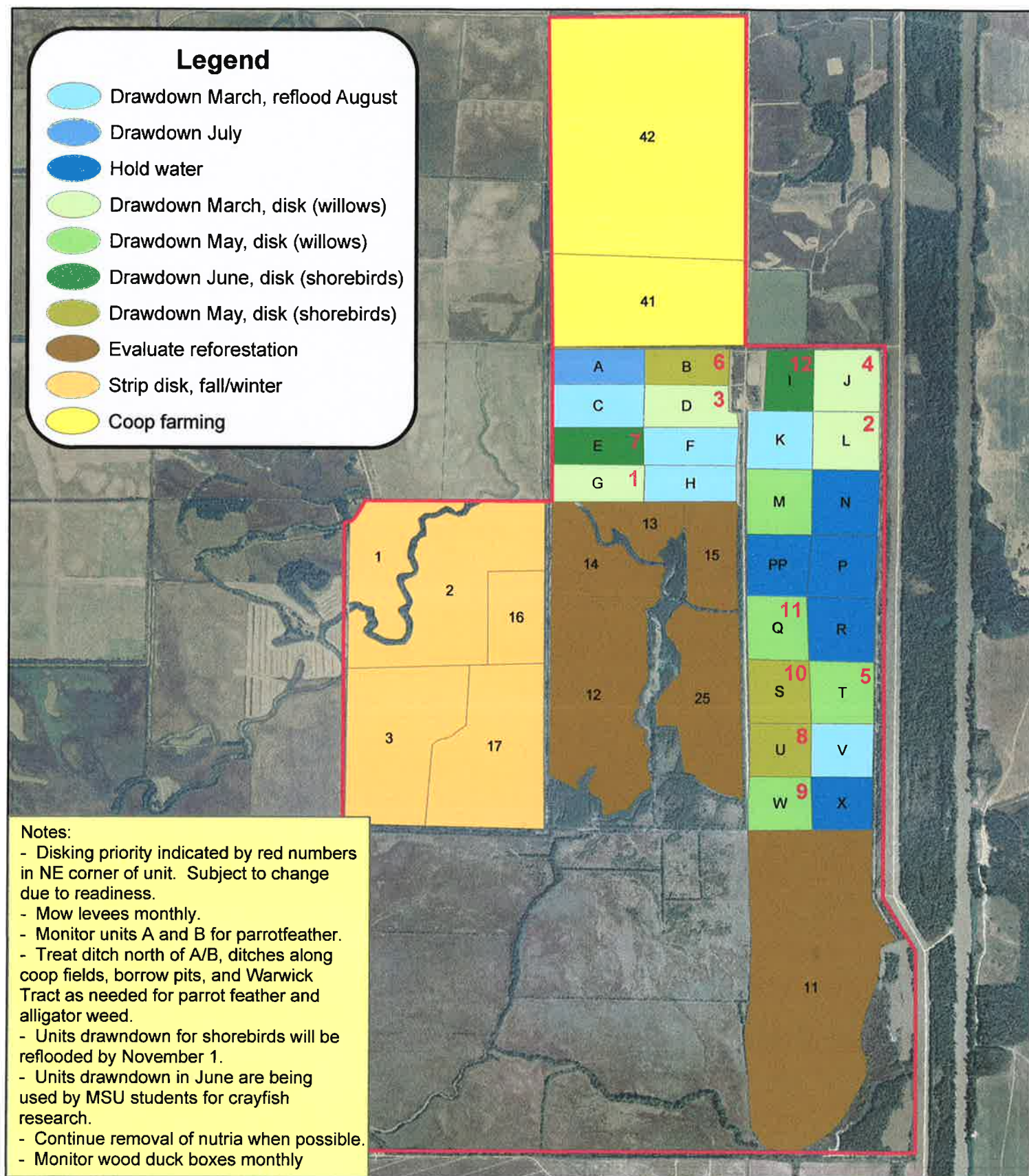


Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge

Annual Habitat Work Plan - 2011



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North Mississippi Refuges Complex
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R.L. Rosamond 03/11/2011

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Pond A	16	Fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Slash piles and dead willows largely deteriorated. Little to no flooded vegetation	Hold water until July. Begin slow drawdown and allow to evaporate. Flush as needed to maintain mudflats/shallow water conditions	PUP (parrotfeather)	Began drawdown 7/15 with additional board pulled 8/24. Unable to drawdown as desired due to backflowing from ditch. Stand of sprangletop around edges, but no significant vegetation response	Used during drawdown primarily by long-legged waders. Duck response good, beginning in October. Some shorebird use at that time as well		
Pond B	14	Wintering dabbling ducks/Fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl/Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Disked in '08. Dense vegetation remaining from '10 growing season.	Late drawdown (begin May 1, dry by June 1). Disk, reflood, then drawdown for fall shorebirds. Reflood by Nov. 1	PUP (parrotfeather)	Began drawdown 5/24. Unit nearly dry by 6/23 (only small pool remained). Unit mowed on to control coffee-weed. Stand of grasses developed after mowing. Unit flooded beginning 8/24	Immediate response following flooding by narrowmouth toads and bronze frogs (calling). Minimal response by waterfowl through 12/1/11		
Pond C	20	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked in '10. Mud flat (and potential for cocklebur).	Drawdown slowly early (begin March 1). Flood vegetation in mid-late August for migrating rails and waterfowl. Treat with 2,4-d as needed for coffee-weed or cocklebur.	PUP	Began drawdown 3/2. Unit dry at wcs by 5/31, but large pool still remained. Dry by 6/23. Mowed portions to control coffee-weed and cocklebur. Good stand of smartweed along edges and center lower area with sedges and sprangletop. Reflooded 10/17/12	Used by shorebirds (500+ individuals, >8 spp.) during early drawdown. Excellent response by waterfowl beginning in late November.		
Pond D	16	Wintering dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked in '09, but some willow persist. Dense vegetation present from '10	Drawdown early (begin March 1, dry NLT May 1). Disk, dry for 2 weeks, reflood and hold water through fall and winter.	N/A	Began drawdown 3/30. Still retained small pool through 6/23. Unit disked 8/10. Reflooded on 8/19. Began drawdown for shorebirds on 9/8. Reflooded by rainwater 11/28.	Small response by shorebirds to late drawdown, but excellent response by ducks (esp. BWTE) to shallow water/mud conditions.		
Pond E	16	Wintering dabbling ducks/Fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl/Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds.	Disked in '08. Dense vegetation remaining from '10 growing season. Herbicide treatment in 2010	Late drawdown (Hold through June for crayfish research). Disk, reflood, then drawdown for fall shorebirds. Reflood by Nov. 1	N/A	Held water throughout season. Slowly evaporated, but never completely dried. Dominated by lotus and willow. Flushed in September 7, just to add a little water. Reflooded 10/28.	Use by small numbers of ducks, waders and some shorebirds throughout the year. Excellent response beginning in November (once flooded).	Needs to be disked in 2012 to set back willows and open up lotus.	
Pond F	17	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked in 2010	Drawdown slowly early (begin March 1). Flood vegetation in mid-late August for migrating rails and waterfowl. Treat with 2,4-d as needed for coffee-weed or cocklebur.	PUP	Began drawdown 3/2. Issues with backflow from ditch. Unit dry at wcs, but pool remained on 6/3. Unit mowed on 9/21/12 to control coffee-weed. Good smartweed over approximately 1/3 of unit. Reflooded on 8/22.	Some use by shorebirds and waterfowl during early stage of drawdown. Some usage during fall migration. Good response by ducks beginning in November.		
Pond G	16	Winter dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked in '08. Held water through '09. Dense vegetation remains from 2010	Drawdown late (begin May 1, dry NLT June 1). Disk, dry for 2 weeks, reflood, hold water through fall/winter.	N/A	Began drawdown 3/30. Dry at wcs but still small pool through 6/23. Unit completely disked by 8/10. Reflooded 8/19. Shorebird drawdown began 9/8. Bacopa present through much of unit.	Very little shorebird response. Excellent waterfowl response beginning in October.		
Pond H	17	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked in '10. Potential for cocklebur.	Drawdown slowly early (begin March 1). Flood vegetation in mid-late August for migrating rails and waterfowl. Treat with 2,4-d as needed for coffee-weed or cocklebur.	N/A	Began drawdown 3/2. Mowed to set back coffee-weed. Smartweed present in narrow band along edges, sedges present in low areas (did get mowed). Grasses and sedges responded to coffee-weed mowing and seeded. Reflooded 10/28.	Good response by shorebirds to early drawdown. Good response by ducks beginning in November.		
Pond I	14	Wintering dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Bottom needs to be smoothed. Disked in part in '10	Late drawdown (Hold through June for crayfish research). Disk, reflood, then drawdown for fall shorebirds. Reflood by Nov. 1	N/A	Began drawdown on 7/15 for shorebirds. Heavy growth of coffee-weed over high ground in unit (approx. 1/2 of area). Reflooded beginning 10/28.	Very little shorebird response. Good waterfowl response beginning in December.		
Pond J	20	Wintering dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked in '09. Dense vegetation remains from '10. Issues with Bermudagrass. Portions of unit won't dry.	Drawdown early (begin March 1, dry NLT May 1). Disk, dry for 2 weeks, then reflood and hold water through fall/winter	N/A	Began drawdown 3/30. Unit dry by 6/23. Approximately 2/3 of unit in coffee-weed. Mowed on 9/8. Unit reflooded 10/13. Vegetation overall ok.	Minimal waterfowl response beginning Nov. 14		
Pond K	18	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked in 2010.	Drawdown slowly early (begin March 1). Flood vegetation in mid-late August for migrating rails and waterfowl. Treat with 2,4-d as needed for coffee-weed or cocklebur.	PUP	Began drawdown 3/2. Dry by 5/18. Good stand of millet and smartweed developed. Some coffee-weed, particularly along edges, mowed in late summer. Began reflooding 10/28.	Excellent spring migrant response, particularly by AGWT and dowitchers, along with other shorebirds. Excellent fall waterfowl response beginning 11/30.		

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Pond L	19	Wintering dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked in '08. Dense flooded vegetation. Willows present	Drawdown early (begin March 1, dry NLT May 1). Disk, dry for 2 weeks, then reflood and hold water through fall/winter	N/A	Began drawdown 3/30. Mostly dry by 6/23. Pool still remained. Willow stand around perimeter of unit, coffee-weed in center. Disked willows, mowed coffee-weed. Reflooded beginning 8/15	Duck use (spring migrants) good. Excellent waterfowl response beginning 11/14.		
Pond M	21	Wintering dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked '08. Coffee-weed mowed in '09. May dry through evaporation before May 1. Coffee-weed and grasses present.	Late drawdown (begin May 1, dry by June 1). Probably not necessary to disk.	N/A	Began drawdown 5/18. Dry by 6/23. Coffee-weed stand developed, but low growing. Mowed prior to 9/8 and replaced boards. Unit flooded by rainwater by mid-December.	Late flooding resulted in no response initially. Good response by January.	Continue to monitor for willow. If Disking not necessary, try to hold water to keep out coffee-weed.	
Pond N/O	20	Secretive Marshbirds	Emergent marsh	Need to smooth bottom and level old levee in center. Some willow encroachment and baccharis.	Hold water as long as possible, to see if any submerged aquatic vegetation responds. Disk if dries. Mow/disk vegetation on old levee (separating N and O)	N/A	Held water throughout season		Need to smooth bottom and level old levee in center. Some willow encroachment and baccharis.	
Pond PP	17	Wintering dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Bottoms need to be smoothed. Willows prevalent in unit.	Hold water to see if any submerged aquatic vegetation responds.	N/A	Held water throughout season. Some willow present - large trees, along edges.	Consistently held mallards, white-fronted geese also later in season.	Bottoms need to be smoothed. Willows prevalent in unit.	
Pond P	20	Wintering dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Bottoms need to be smoothed. Willow and buttonbush over 50% of unit	Hold water to see if any submerged aquatic vegetation responds. Disk edges if dries enough.	N/A	Held water throughout season	Excellent response by BWTE early. Overall good response, although not as good as previous years.	Bottoms need to be smoothed. Willow and buttonbush over 50% of unit	
Pond Q	18	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked in '07. Ultrablazer applied '08.	Drawdown late (begin May 1, dry NLT June 1). Disk, dry for 2 weeks, reflood, hold water through fall/winter.	N/A	Began drawdown 5/18. Nearly dry by 6/23. Cocklebur common throughout. Unit disked 7/14, reflooded beginning 9/8. Held water for remainder of year. Coffee-weed in upper 1/3 of unit, but remainder in flooded grasses.	Excellent waterfowl response.	Few large willows still remain.	
Pond R	21	Secretive Marshbirds	Emergent marsh	Diverse assemblage of emergent vegetation. Approximately 50% of area covered by willow (<i>Salix nigra</i>) and groundsel-tree (<i>Baccharis halimifolia</i>)	Hold water to see if any submerged aquatic vegetation responds.	N/A	Held water throughout season, although largely dry by fall.	Very little use by waterfowl recorded.	Approximately 50% of area covered by willow and Baccharis.	
Pond S	18	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds, fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl. Provide 225 acres of fall foraging habitat for migrating shorebirds	Ultrablazer applied '08. Disked in '09.	Late drawdown (begin May 1, dry by June 1). Disk, reflood, then drawdown for fall shorebirds. Reflood by Nov. 1	N/A	Began drawdown 5/18. Unit nearly dry by 6/23. Unit disked 7/18. Reflooded 8/8. Unit flushed 9/13 and 10/13 to try to continue to provide habitat for shorebirds.	Good response by ducks and ibis in response to initial flooding. Good use by snipe throughout winter. Excellent response by ducks throughout winter.		
Pond T	19	Wintering dabbling ducks	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Slash piles present. Willow grove cut in '07. Some resprouting. Disked in '08.	Drawdown late (begin May 1, dry NLT June 1). Disk, dry for 2 weeks, reflood, hold water through fall/winter.	PUP	Began drawdown 5/18. Unit dry by 6/23. Unit disked in 7/19, reflooded 8/10.	Unit likely used for nesting by red-winged blackbirds. Excellent response by waterfowl throughout winter.		
Pond U	16	Wintering dabbling ducks, fall migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked in '08. Dense vegetation from 2010	Late drawdown (begin May 1, dry by June 1). Disk, reflood, then drawdown for fall shorebirds. Reflood by Nov. 1	N/A	Began drawdown 5/18. Unit dry by 6/23. Unit disked 7/13 and reflooded 7/22. Low grasses and sagittarius present.	Use by waterfowl lower than expected.		
Pond V	16	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked in 2010	Drawdown slowly early (begin March 1). Flood vegetation in mid-late August for migrating rails and waterfowl. Treat with 2,4-d as needed for coffee-weed or cocklebur.	PUP	Began drawdown 3/2. Nearly dry by 5/31. Heavy growth of vegetation, grasses and others. Reflooded 9/8.	Excellent response by BWTE early. Overall excellent response, although difficult to count due to heavy vegetation.		
Pond W	15	Wintering dabbling ducks, spring migrating shorebirds	Provide 190 acres of moist-soil habitat for over-wintering waterfowl	Disked '08. Some small willow patches remain.	Drawdown late (begin May 1, dry NLT June 1). Disk, dry for 2 weeks, reflood, hold water through fall/winter.	N/A	Began drawdown 5/18. Never completely dried (several pools persisted). Heavy growth of coffee-weed. Mowed majority of area in early September. Reflooded by rain in early winter.	Good response by waterfowl.		
Pond X	15	Secretive Marsh birds	Emergent marsh	Diverse assemblage of emergent vegetation. Willows becoming denser.	Hold water to see if any submerged aquatic vegetation responds. Disk soft rush if dries enough.	N/A	Held water throughout season. Flushed with water 9/8.	Poor use by waterfowl.		

DG
Swamp

Coldwater River National Wildlife Refuge Annual Habitat Work Plan - 2011

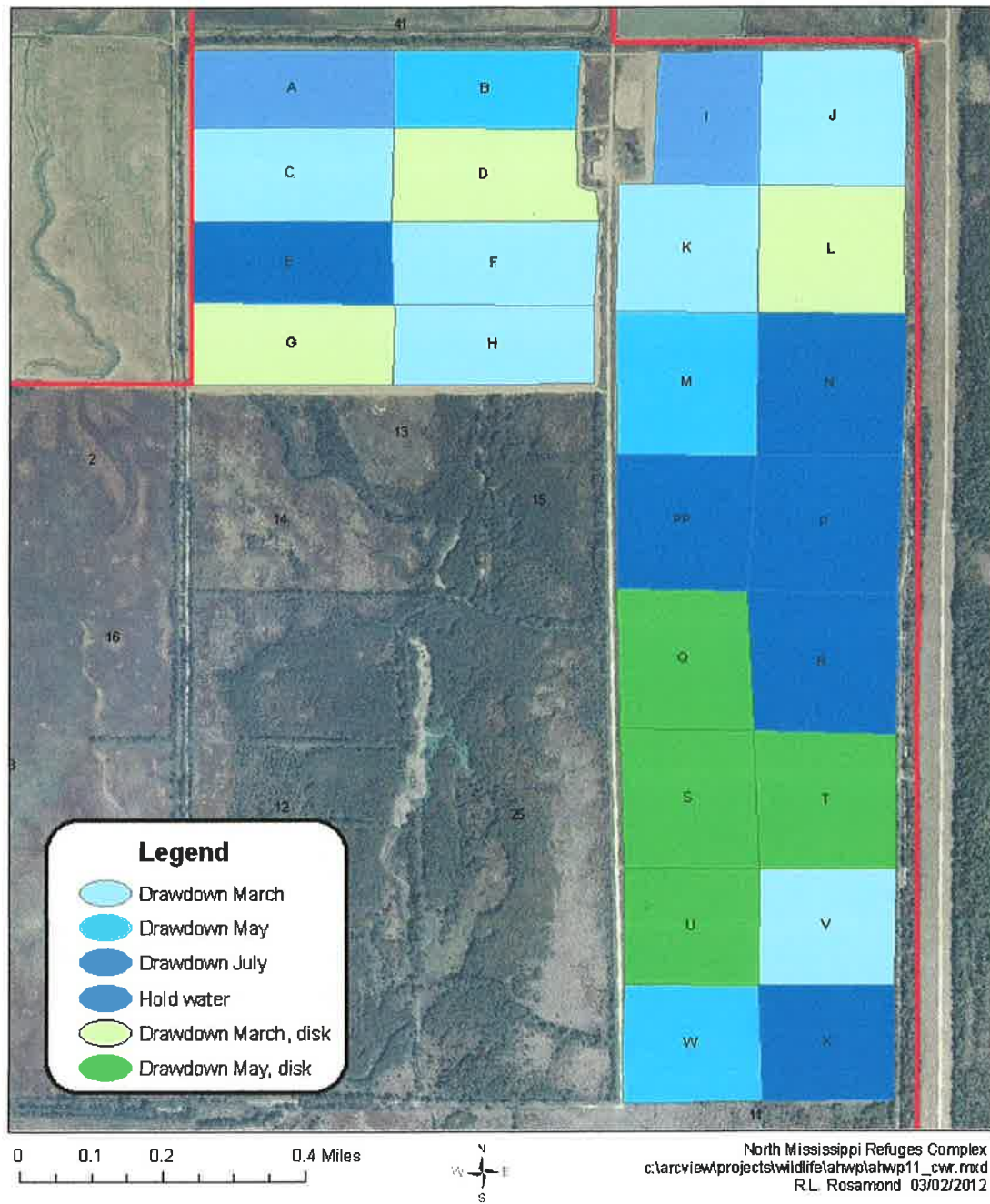


Figure xx: Annual habitat work plan for Coldwater River NWR

